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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,154	01/28/2004	Kai Xu	BW-DKT03146	3413

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EXAMINER

JENKINS, DANIEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/766,154	XU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel J. Jenkins	1742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosco '747 in view of Baran et al. and Sonti et al.

Kosco discloses a method of forming a part comprising:

providing a metal powder comprising:

0.3 to 0.8% carbon (col. 3, line 2);

up to 2% nickel (col. 5, line 52);

up to 2% molybdenum (col. 5, line 50);

up to 0.7% manganese (col. 5, line 51); and

up to about 4% chromium (col. 5, lines 51-52); compressing the metal powder at 20-70 tsi to form a green compact (col. 7, lines 34-41); heating the green compact at a temperature of 2000°F to 2400°F for 25-30 minutes for a sufficient time to ensure homogeneous alloying (col. 7, lines 41-58); forming a densified portion of the heated green compact (col. 8, lines 35-59); heating the densified compact in the range of 2050°F to 2400°F for at least 20 minutes (col. 8, lines 60-64); and cooling the compact under rates and times to form tempered martensite (col. 8, line 60 to col. 9, line 16).

Kosco further discloses wherein the forming a densified portion includes hot forming at a temperature of 1800°F for 3 minutes (see Example 2), in the temperature limitation of Applicant's step d) but for less time. The Examiner finding that the time limitation of a small part such as a race would lead to total heating of the part, resulting in the same desired effects as claimed.

Kosco thus differs from the claimed invention by the alloy additions and the full range of various temperature treatments.

Kosco is silent as to other claimed alloy additions including Si, but states that known alloy additions can be added to his metal powder composition (col. 5, lines 31-67).

Baran et al. teaches to add allow additions to steel including less than 1% Si (pp 1-2) in order to improve the corrosion resistance and phase stability.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add Si as taught by Baran et al. to the steel composition of Kosco in order to improve corrosion resistance and phase stability of the steel of Kosco.

Kosco further discloses heating parameters selected for the same purposes as disclosed by Applicant, and would be modified by one of ordinary skill based on the selection of the initial starting alloy in order to achieve the same utility as the disclosed invention.

Kosco '747 further discloses wherein the first cooling step is performed so as to not harden the microstructure, leaving a non-martensitic microstructure of one or more of Pearlite, Ferrite + Pearlite, or Bainite microstructure depending upon where in the cooling range cooling is performed, leaving a hardness of about 6.2 to 7.2 g/cc (col. 7, line 59 to col. 8, line 7).

However, Kosco '747 is silent as to grinding as a working step.

Sonti et al. teaches at [0009] that grinding can be performed on formed powder metal gears for the purpose of achieving a desired level of accuracy of formation.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate grinding into the working operation of Kosco '747 as taught by Sonti et al. in order to improve accuracy of the formed gear.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Jenkins whose telephone number is 571-272-1242. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH6:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1242. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel J. Jenkins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

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